

NEED A LIFT?

Home elevators are rising in popularity — ‘I love it,’ says Mike Holmes

Reaching the heights of luxurious living just got a little easier. Now it's possible to enjoy the convenience of an elevator in your own home. It's a growing trend in new home construction in the U.S. and is now catching on in Canada. In fact, one of the leaders in the residential elevator industry is Cambridge Elevating Inc., based in Cambridge, Ont., a company inspired by a customer-first “make it happen” philosophy.

One of the company's greatest fans is none other than Mike Holmes, star of the popular HGTV show “Holmes on Homes.” The program began its latest season on February 28 with a special premiere edition dedicated to his “Lien on Me” project and to inaugurate the Holmes Foundation, which he has

Marketing Manager Bob Nowack with TV star renovator Mike Holmes.



much better to install one in a new home during the regular construction process — or, at the very least, plan for later installation by creating a stack of spacious closets on every floor that can be converted into the elevator shaft. The elevator is powered by a hydraulic power unit about the size of a compact dehumidifier. It hums away quietly tucked under a staircase, or on a shelf in the basement or garage.

Operating costs are low. The elevator uses no electricity while traveling down, and on the 30-second ride up, about as much as any other household appliance.

Every elevator can be as unique as the owner. Cambridge Elevating can customize the interior of the elevator cab, from using the latest technologies, such as voice recognition, security cameras, and even LCD touch-screen controls. You can select a nicely trimmed conventional cab with the entrance to the elevator matching the other doors in your home. A discreet button set in the wall would be the only indication that one door leads to the elevator. However, if you want a real showpiece, they can provide a double stainless steel sliding door system. “The sky's the limit,” says Plant Manager Derek Moore. “If you want something, we will figure out a way to provide it.”

Home elevators are likely to become more common as the “boomer” generation grows older. It's a generation with high standards. They know what they want, they want it done well, and they want it to look just right — just like Mike Holmes. ■

■ Cambridge Elevating Inc.
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Elevator interiors can be customized.



set up to help homeowners who have been taken advantage of by incompetent or unscrupulous contractors. A highlight of that inaugural program is the coverage it gives to an elevator made by Cambridge Elevating. “It's awesome,” Mr. Holmes exclaimed. “I love it!”

Residential elevators are more affordable than you might think. In most cases, the cost is about the same as a custom kitchen. But unlike a kitchen, which might need to be updated as styles change and appliances need to be replaced, an elevator is always an asset with lasting value — especially as the homeowners get older and are less able to climb stairs. The elevator can even accommodate a wheelchair, so an aging homeowner doesn't need to move from a much-loved home because of health issues.

Trying to fit an elevator into an existing home can be difficult, however. It's



Stairs aren't a problem with a residential elevator.